Tape #63 CLIFF MCCOY

This is an interview with Mr. Cliff McCoy, 2796 W. 500 S., Vernal, Utah, on this eighth day of February, 1978. This is Mike Brown of the Golden Age Center.

Mike Brown (MB): Mr. McCoy, can you tell me how your family happened to come here to Vernal?

Cliff McCoy (Cliff): Oh yes. When my grandfather was a captain in Sherman's army during the Civil War, shortly after the Civil War, the family moved into Kansas. My grandfather took up the second homestead in the Kingman County, Kansas. My father left home around 11 years old and went to work with a man in Oklahoma Territory with cattle and in Texas, too. He made two trips out of Texas country with steers up into the South Park in Colorado near the mining town of Leadville. The second year he come up there, why, he stayed there in Leadville and went around the mines. In 1888 he come into Ashley Valley; he was 20 years old. He went to work for Readers, John Reader. He worked there nine years and eight months for Reader. When he pulled out from the Readers' outfit, he had a small bunch of sheep and he went from there.

MB: This was your dad?

Cliff: Yeah, that was my father, Walt McCoy.

MB: That's how he got his start, then?

Cliff: That's right. There was years that the livestock people couldn't pay their men and they had to take whatever they had, sheep or cows, for pay outside of maybe... Well, those men were all boarded by the men that owned the livestock, you see. Outside of the clothes and bullets and tobacco, why, most everything else was furnished. After he left Reader, he took up land in the Jackson Draw on Diamond Mountain.

We still own the land that he took up and a lot more. We added to it a few times, other lands. My wife and I raised five sons. Two of them are still here with the livestock and the farm ranches. The other three are gone. One's in Salt Lake, he's a lawyer, John. Miles and Walter is in California. Miles worked for the Internal Revenue for thirteen years, twelve or thirteen and now he's on his own CPA. Walter is an electrical engineer; he's my third son.

MB: When did you come along?

Cliff: 1903 I was born. I started very young to help with the livestock. I rode a horse from the time I was about three anyway. I had to be helped onto a horse (laughs).

MB: You got an early start out there.

Cliff: Oh, yes, wherever my father could take me, like moving the sheep from the Diamond Mountain to our ranges on the forest. Why, I was out of school and I think I went with him

before I started school. It generally took a week to move those sheep. You've heard of this Thornburgh Road that crosses the mountain? Well, we trailed the sheep off of Diamond into the Long Park, that's where we, our Trout, no not Trout Creek, but Government Park. We hit this Thornburgh Road and we followed that down the Young's Spring dugway into what they called the Young's Springs and then we hit the Carter Creek. We followed the Carter Creek a very little ways on the Carter Creek until we hit Beaver Creek. Then we followed the Beaver Creek up to an opening where we could cross the Beaver Creek with the sheep. In the early days, those old men built bridges on the deeper waters with logs. Just cut the logs and laid them close to one another, you know, hewn them out so they fit tight, and would peg them together on all four corners to where they couldn't spread, and the sheep could cross that. My father, at that time, had range from the Beaver Creek to the Green River in what they called the Hideout. That's where he run the sheep, in Dowd Hole country, the Dowd Mountain.

MB: Dowd Mountain. Where did you winter?

Cliff: We wintered way south in the Book Cliffs. It took us from twelve to fourteen days to cross the desert, it depended on our water. If we had plenty of water crossing the desert, why we took a little more time. If we were short some water, we had to move the sheep out to make to the water. The sheep, at that time of year, in latter part of October and November, if there wasn't storms, everything was quite dry and the sheep should have the water every day when they were moving that way. But sometimes it would run into one and two days that they'd be on the dry. Big herds, we run big bunches of sheep those days.

My father wintered in there from 1904 until we sold it out here just a few years ago without any feed. There was no way of getting feed to them. A lot of times we had snow three and four feet deep in there. When the snow started to build up we scattered the sheep, just scattered them everywhere in the breaks, all the breaks. We had sheep scattered for ten or fifteen miles, just little bits of bunches. The herders would always see the sheep. If they see a little bunch that was short for feed, we would go in there with the teams and sleighs and hook on to a big log and hook from the sleigh and drag this big log all around the sage and around the cedar. The sheep eat everything, the sagebrush, the cedar boughs, and even pinion boughs. A lot of people would say, I've heard them say since, that pinion boughs and cedar boughs would kill them, but we've cut the cedars to feed the sheep a lot of times, cut the branches off.

MB: Would they eat cottonwood, too?

Cliff: Young cottonwood, they would, but not the old hard cottonwood. As far as trees are concerned, they'll eat everything. They'll chew the bark off from even the cedar posts and the young fruit trees, if you have them in the orchards.

MB: What was the condition of the range like out there?

Cliff: It was good. In my early time, I don't see a great lot of difference in the ranges in my time as there is today. We had droughts just like we've had, much worse. I think the BLM is a little too strict. We wintered the sheep in 1915, ‘16, ‘17, ‘18, until November of ‘19 was drought very bad. There wasn't grass for the horses. We had to grain them heavy and the horses were thin but they

were strong. The horses in the cold weather will eat the sagebrush and eat shadscale. They'll eat most anything. We wintered our horses out with our sheep always. Even when we moved the sheep in my earliest times, across the desert, we had no hay to feed horses. We had to watch the sheep at night and we watched the horses at the same time. We had a bell on the horses and a lot of times we'd take turns of tying one horse up. Once in a while we'd have an extra saddle horse or two and they were loose all day, they'd follow the team. They eat as they went along. We'd tie those horses, take turns tying them up, so if our horses did leave us, why we could get around them pretty quick. We had to hobble them. Like I say, they had a bell on them so you could hear them. We'd take turns the same way watching the sheep, one man would be up for three or four hours.

We had a little narrow gauge railroad at Watson and Dragon. It was first built over the mountain from the D&RG into Dragon. A few years later, they built the railroad down to what they called the Rainbow Mine. This railroad was built in there to haul the Gilsonite out of this side of the mountain, they crossed the big Book Cliff Mountains. Very big switchbacks on it.

We sheared the sheep in my early times at a place we called Bonanza. Bonanza Shearing Corral. The sheep men built big sheds there, would shed about 3,000 sheep. They would shear 3,000 sheep a day with those. At first it was built for blades, then when the machine come in, they remodeled the corrals for the machines. Frank Roberts run this corral for a good many years, and Jack Bates looked after the corrals in my early life and twice he told me they sheared right near 150,000 sheep. He told me this one time, there was 148 and some odd sheared there at that one corral. So you can tell we had sheep in this country.

These sheep come from a lot of places over in the Willow Creek country, they trailed those sheep over to the Bonanza and sheared them and then went back. A lot of these herds went out of the country entirely into Colorado back into Colton, Utah. They moved everything by foot and everywhere. The sheep just took their time and grazed as they were moved. In my early life the sheepherders all herded afoot. I think my father was the first man that furnished a horse. If the herder would furnish a saddle, he'd furnish them a horse. I'd say that was right around 1914 or '15, right in that time.

MB: When they started using horses?

Cliff: That's right.

MB: You know that year you were talking about just a minute ago, in November 1918?

Cliff: 1919.

MB: 1919. Was that the hard winter?

Cliff: That was a very hard winter.

MB: What was it like?

Cliff: Well, you couldn't tell so much about how much snow fell, because the wind blowed so bad. That was the day before Thanksgiving. Right here in the valley. I rode a horse from where I

lived over here in Maeser—my father's home, the big brick house across the street east of the Cash Valley Mart [possibly the Maeser Store owned by Sarah Rudge]—to school to Vernal.

The snow here in the valley was up above the horses' knees quite a little ways. But this one storm, it built up some. And me in the desert, I went with my father, he moved some corn from Watson thirty miles to where our sheep were and we built a corral with cedar to pile this corn in. A fellow named Charlie Taylor worked for my father and he says, "Walt, what are you going to do with that corn?" "Well," he said, "We'll use it somewhere. After the winter we're gonna have a little pouring off from our feed. That's what we used it for." Otherwise, we'd never have fed it. Those sheep were just scattered in little bits of bunches and the smaller the bunch the better they could winter in these draws. I went through about five winters like that. 1928-'29 was another one just about the same kind of winter. In '36-'37 was just such a winter. In '48-'49 and '49-'50 and '50-'51.

MB: Looks like you had a string of them there.

Cliff: Oh yeah, we had about four right there together, bad winters.

MB: Did you have to ship feed in or go out of state to get it?

Cliff: No, we didn't feed but very little through those winters. When we see the snow was building up pretty good, why, if we had a chance we'd cut the sheep to a corral and cut all the scad in, the thinner sheep out from the fatter ones. Good sheep, solid mouth sheep from twos to fives would winter in 'most any kind of winter if they're taken care of right. You could keep those sheep herds together and they'd all die. In 1919 and 1920, that winter, why there was outfits that lost half of their sheep. They kept them in big herds, and like I say, in Christmas time I went with my father to help him move this feed to where the sheep were. I went with the herders and the camp mover and I looked at those sheep, my father and I, we went to see how they were. They had them in just little bits of bunches everywhere.

MB: That's the secret then.

Cliff: Oh yes, yes. To do it before the snow got too deep. After the snow got deep, it's hard to do anything with them. You keep sheep off of feed two or three days and it's just hard to move, but while they can still walk you just let them scatter. The snow would still be soft and after the big storms, generally we'd have a lot of wind and that snow would have a heavy crust on it and even raise the devil with our horses' legs. We had to wrap the horses' legs with burlap sacks. We'd cut the burlap in strips, just like in the First World War. Those soldiers wore those rat leggings, you know, that's the way we wrapped those horses' legs with the burlap, up to their knees. We got by very well.

MB: Did the flu epidemic in 1918-1919, did that affect you guys any?

Cliff: Yes, we never had any men that was sick in the camp, but there had been in different camps. Quite a lot of men died, good men, too. There was two of the Richardson boys, men died, they were men. I was young at that time. There were just lots of men that died. We wore masks

all during that time. They put that eucalyptus oil or stuff on that mask and it would almost kill you, it was about as bad as the flu.

MB: I'd heard that. What is that eucalyptus oil?

Cliff: I don't know, but I guess the flu didn't penetrate it is all.

MB: I've never heard that, that's fascinating. There were some men I was wondering if you knew. Did you know some Greeks named Theos?

Cliff: Yes, I knew all the Theos'. These Theos boys still run sheep up here at Meeker. I knew his father when he come into this country.

MB: What were they like?

Cliff: They were good men, good men. There was two of Theos', three of Theos' wife's brothers come here and they went into the sheep business, too. They done their own herding, they done everything. There was three of them and they just had one herd of sheep and they just lived with the sheep.

MB: Another fellow was John Papolus. Was that his name?

Cliff: Yeah. I knew all those Greeks that was in here during those days.

MB: When did the Greeks come in?

Cliff: Theos come in here... I think Theos worked on this little narrow gauge railroad for some time on the rails, looking after these ties, taking ties up. Then he went into the sheep business. W.A. Banks worked in the depot in Watson for 28 years. There was a Greek fellow that was going to lose his outfit and he took it over; and I think he just let the Greeks go on and run it. He was in the sheep business here for years. Banks' father, Bus, worked with the sheep all the time. He had his hand shot off early in life and took up with the sheep when they come along.

MB: Do you remember those sheep range wars? You know when that guy got shot and killed?

Cliff: I remember the last ones here on the Blue Mountain when Darnell, John Darnell, was killed. He was herding sheep and the cowboys shot him and it said that they followed blood on the tracks. It was in the summertime and it would be hard to follow anything like that, but looked like probably he'd shot one of them or maybe more. Then Bry Stringham was over across the Colorado line into Colorado and it seemed to me like they burned his camp up, I'm not too sure. But whether they killed any sheep or not... And Snell Johnson, I know they burned his sheep up, because I knew Snell real well. I knew Bry, too, but I don't remember just what took place. This Darnell, I think he and Willard Rasmussen was working for Bry. There was about twenty to twenty-five cowboys that was coming toward their camp and this Willard Rasmussen says to Darnell, “It looks like them guys are coming over here to our camp.” They was getting ready to

make dinner. Darnell strapped on his gun and went out afoot and stopped them. He just told them what kind of people they were. Twenty-five cowardly cowboys come up here and jump on the two sheepherders.

MB: Sounds like he was a brave man.

Cliff: Yes, he wasn't afraid of anything.

MB: What were the feelings of the Ashley Valley sheep owners when that occurred?

Cliff: It was the last end of the wars, and there were feelings all right, but the sheepmen held their tempers pretty good.

MB: Had there been trouble before then?

Cliff: Yes, there had been troubles time and again before that, but no one was killed that I know of. A fellow by the name of Bill Bascom and Nathan Hardy had a bunch of sheep on Blue Mountain right along near that same time. They killed most of those sheep, run them over ledges and beat them with clubs. Then before my time, on Diamond Mountain, the public ranges was all free in those days, you could go anywhere with livestock as long as you wasn't on the private land.

There was three McKee boys and the father run a big outfit of cattle. The McKee Draw was named after them. My father moved a bunch of bucks that belonged to Reader, there was other bucks in there, but I don't remember. Carter, Carter was one of them that had bucks because I've heard my father talk of it several times. Moved them down into what they call the Lewis Allen. That's down in the Greendale on the Allen Creek where they had their camp and they had their bucks there.

These McKee boys, they went down there and they tied the herder up. There were big trees in that country and they put a tie rope around his wrist and put it right around the tree and tied it to the other wrist. A young fellow, he was eleven years old, was with him. They didn't tie him up, but this young boy, he sized these fellows all up, you know, they were all good-sized men, and what clothes they had on and their boots and this one fellow had big holes in his boots. They killed a lot of those pups, a lot of them.

This herder, when they left, the boy turned the herder loose and he sent this boy to town to find Reader and he met my father going up the Steinaker Draw. My father was going to the mountain on horseback when this boy met him. My father told him to go in and have Reader bring a posse of some kind if the sheriff wasn't there to have somebody deputized. They deputized Reader, the sheriff wasn't there. He brought three men with him, Reader did, that I know the names. One of them is Woody Searle's stepfather, by gosh, I can't think of his name, and Al Hatch and Reader. My father went in there and found the herder with the bucks and seen what they'd done and he followed these fellows' tracks back into the McKee Draw.

They had a camp over in a hole and my father told this Lenny Hall, that was the boy, for him to come to Red Springs, he would meet him there with one of the herders they had there. The names get away from me anymore. Anyway, he was a tough man. He was a sharp shot, he was like my father, he wasn't scared of anything.

MB: Was he a Pope?

Cliff: No. Lee. A fellow by the name of Lee, Ike Lee. He was the same man that killed Pigeon over on what they called Pigeon Point. That was after this time, and Reader come a little while before daylight, and these five men just closed in on that camp and hollered for him to come out of there. There was four of them in there, a fellow that worked for them was with these other McKee boys. They brought them out and one of them was sent to the penitentiary for five years and one for three and one for one year. I guess the court decided which men were the better men, you know, that wasn't up to these things. But I've been told several times this older McKee boy was in lots of scrapes. These McKee boys' father had to sell the outfit to try to keep these boys from going to the penitentiary. Curt Johnson bought the outfit and he gathered those cattle in the fall and the steers alone paid for the whole outfit, he had all the cows and calves left.

MB: That's quite a deal.

Cliff: Yes.

MB: How did the Taylor Grazing Act affect you? Can you tell me something about that?

Cliff: In a way it was very good when it first started. The Taylor Grazing Act was suited most to the livestock people because it got rid of a lot of transients off our country. We had thousands and thousands come here from Price and down in that country, in the winter in this country and you had to watch very close, you had to watch those outfits. A lot of them would take your sheep out if they had any of them when they left. Then they used up a lot of our feed.

I remember one year when August Nickels come down here from the Simerone, Colorado, and he brought 15,000 head of sheep in there and he wintered right in the same area where we were wintering. Six big herds of sheep. It was very, well, it was a bad year, a lot of snow, and they lost, they said, over a herd of sheep in there. It done away with those people, and later on we got our allotments. I would say ninety percent of the allotments was in fairly good shape.

We got people out of the East that's never seen our country dictating to us. It isn't right. Like I say, when we first started, we had men that worked with sheep, and the forest was the same way. The forest for me began work, they had men in there that spent several years with the sheep and the cows. They knew livestock, and today you've got the same thing.

MB: Do you think things are worse today?

Cliff: It is as far as getting along with them, yes. They're dictators, that's all I can say for them. There's nothing else about it.

MB: Have your allotments been cut down over the years?

Cliff: The allotments haven't been cut down, but they cut the livestock down. This year they wouldn't let them go on there.

MB: Oh, you mean the amount of sheep you can run on your allotments.

Cliff: That's right. This year I understood they'd let them take about half of them. Well, what's a man going to do with the other half? He's been used to wintering on the range. I've wintered on the range when it was a lot worse than it is today. The sheep come up in fairly good shape and the range was all right, too. These people that run this thing doesn't know feed for the first thing. As long as you've got sagebrush and snow like there is today, why you've got feed. That little thistle, they cleaned that all up. I think it's a crime.

MB: Has this been a gradual thing with the BLM?

Cliff: Yes.

MB: Just gradually over the years?

Cliff: That's right. A little over twenty years ago is when they made their first cuts, I'd say from forty to sixty percent at that time. I had a permit for 5,200 head of sheep and they wanted to cut me down half. Well, I owned some land in the desert and I had six sections leased in my same area. This fellow that is in there, why he said, "Well, you still have about the same as you've been running the last few years." I'd cut them down after World War I, cut the sheep down and we was running out of herders and we were running out of men to handle these sheep. It got so all you could do was find... I don't see how what few is left in the business can put up with the men they're putting up with.

MB: Was the herder you had way back then, was that a better quality?

Cliff: There were men that that's all they did was herd sheep.

MB: Were they foreigners?

Cliff: No, they were here in our country and in New Mexico. I brought lots of men out of New Mexico. The older men say the middle-aged men were very good. During World War I I had six or seven and they were all past seventy years old.

MB: What did you pay them?

Cliff: Well, during the war I think we paid around $200 a month.

MB: $200 a month? Plus you supplied everything?

Cliff: Oh yeah, we furnished them everything.

MB: That's good. There's something I heard, I don't know if this is true or joke, if someone was pulling my leg. But did there used to be a deal about supplying prunes back in the twenties or

thirties?

Cliff: Supplying them in the camp? Well, they always had dry prunes in the camp, dry fruit, dried peaches, dried apples, and generally they would have their jams, too.

MB: I was told that it was like $30 a month with prunes and $35 without.

Cliff: That's just a joke.

MB: That's what I thought.

Cliff: But during the Depression of '33, or '32 to '35, a dollar a day, that was a fair wage, $30-$40. Along about '36 we raised everything to about $50 a month. Then different raises, you know, as you went along, but before the hard times, we paid up around $90 and $100 a month for sheep herders.

MB: That was good money then.

Cliff: Yeah, during the twenties.

MB: Have predators been a problem?

Cliff: Oh yes! That's a big problem. If it wasn't for the predators, the coyotes, you'd almost turn them loose. That's what the sheepherders do today. You take all that loss. Those old herders, years ago, used to herd those sheep and do their best to keep the coyotes out. A lot of them wouldn't even come in for their dinner, they'd take a lunch with them. If the sheep was nice and quiet and everything was good, why maybe they'd hang their coats on one side or the other of the sheep and go in and get them a bite to eat. They took care of those sheep.

MB: They cared about them.

Cliff: Yes. The coyotes were much worse than they are today in my early life.

MB: They were worse then?

Cliff: Yes, I'll say. They're bad enough today, but nothing like they were in my early time. You seen coyotes all day! You don't do that today.

MB: Did you lose a lot of sheep back then?

Cliff: Yeah, we'd lose quite a few sheep. I know we used to figure for a herd on the forest we'd lose from fifty to seventy-five lambs to coyotes alone.

MB: That's quite a bit out of your pocket.

Cliff: I'll say it is.

MB: I had the impression that the sheepmen, when they had this Taylor Grazing Act, they went to Washington and said, "We need help in regulating this range." Do you think it backfired over the years?

Cliff: Oh yes. Something's rotten somewhere. Here they're putting on these fees, trying to raise these fees every year now until 1980, twelve percent, I understand. Their range hardly isn't worth it. But there isn't the feed here in the valley to take care of the animals. We'd have to ship feed in. I think they're trying to do away with the livestock on the range altogether. They'll have a fire hazard when they do. The BLM first showed up here in '34 and they didn't do much until '38. They haven't done much anyway, but as far as water, to fix the range up to be used. I have mountain range here, and I've got BLM around it. They're charging me $1.51 today. They haven't got no water. The water is fifty percent or more of it. If you haven't got water, why the sheep are not going to, or the animals are not going to eat the feed, they can't eat it without water.

MB: So the range is just no good for it.

Cliff: If we fenced our range from theirs, in which it would be a struggle to do that, why their range would be worthless. I have range that they can't get on the public domain without getting on my land. Some of my lands, the deeds, or not the deeds, but the abstract reads no one could trespass, only a prospector, and all he can carry is a pick.

MB: But those people cross it anyway.

Cliff: Well, we let them cross it, yes. The public, if you wasn't after them all the time, they'd be on it all the time.

MB: I've heard that's really nice up there in Jackson Draw.

Cliff: We own all the waters, you might say, they've got little corners of water, but no place where they can put their animals in there to water without being on our property. I won't say they don't own water, but they own maybe, on Diamond Mountain, maybe ten percent of the water.

MB: And the rest of it is private?

Cliff: The rest of it is private land, yes. And we developed our water in which the BLM has done nothing. They've been here now for forty-eight years and they haven't done a thing.

MB: Have you used stock here, like stock with fish and things like that?

Cliff: We have, but we don't let the public in there. They say you've got to get permission from the state to stock these waters. Well, we built these reservoirs and if we want to put fish in them, we'll put fish in them. If it comes right down to it, if we have to, maybe we can shoot and drag a few of the public off of it.

MB: (laughs) From the fish and game officers.

Cliff: The big game is the same way. They're nothing but moochers. They've got their animals all over our land all the time.

MB: You mean the elk and deer?

Cliff: Yes, I've counted 220 elk in one day on my land.

MB: That's what I've heard, that there is a lot of elk, that's great hunting out there.

Cliff: Last year there wasn't so many in there. They use the club for the elk being so thick that you don't let the hunters on your land to hunt. Well, as soon as the first shot is fired, the BLM has got a lot of hideouts for those elk, slide rock and dark timber and that's where they go, to that timber. Today there's about maybe five percent of the hunters will get up into those places where the rest of them just stand and look at the hillsides.

MB: Yeah, you have to go work for it.

Cliff: That's right, they've got to work for it. They don't realize that; they think they bought a permit to hunt, that the animals ought to come to them.

MB: (laughs) Do they do very much damage to your feed?

Cliff: Sure they do. By God, an elk will eat as much as a cow. Maybe not the biggest cows, but those bigger elk will.

MB: So what would that equate to in sheep? How many sheep would you say equal an elk?

Cliff: Well, five sheep should equal a cow. And this BLM, they're trying to use ten, if you're going to change, they're going to use ten sheep for one cow. My God, they're crazy! Five sheep will eat more than one cow, with a lamb. That's where you take it from, is a cow would have a calf, and the sheep would have their lamb, and five of them will eat more. I know that because I've run both of them.

MB: You had cows, too?

Cliff: Oh, yeah. We got I think about 500 cows or near that now and a small bunch of sheep.

MB: How have wool prices been during your career?

Cliff: During my time? Well, just like everything else, up and down. The fall of 1919 we was offered sixty cents for our wool and my father and three other men kept their wool pooled pretty well. Whitbeck and Coltharp and John Davis and my father, there were four of them. They must

have had close to 30,000 fleeces of wool. These other three guys didn't want to sell, my father said, "By gosh, it's a good price, we ought to take it." The next spring they took ten cents for it.

MB: They lost. Boy, that's a lot of money.

Cliff: Yes, so chances are, the people that bought that would pay $1 a fleece down on the contract and probably never come to receive the wool at all, because they could buy cheaper wool than they could pay to buy that, you see.

MB: Do you think the price of wool put more people out of business than all these other things?

Cliff: Well, no, I think poor management has put a lot of them out of business. They made money, but the families lived in town and they was all good spenders and they could borrow money and I think a lot of it has been that. Hard winters have done a lot of it, too, poor prices, all together, it's all helped. Wool prices and then in 1932 our wool went to a dime.

MB: At the first of the Depression?

Cliff: Yes, and stayed that way for some time.

MB: Did you have to just kind of take those real bad years with the good ones?

Cliff: That's right, that's all we could do, over a long time. During that Depression, we had to mortgage everything we had outside of our home. But our range lands and our permits was included with that, because the permits was attached to the range lands. Our bank down here took a mortgage on the land and we got a mortgage on the sheep from the Wasatch Loan Co., and we had this banker here go with us, my father and I, into Salt Lake to see about a loan with the bank or this Wasatch Loan. We asked them to let us save every ewe lamb that was good quality and we raised good sheep those days. We brought our bucks out of the southern part of Utah and we bought the best and let our wether lambs and our wool. It didn't do any more than pay our interest to get by until things started to come up. These guys all agreed with that, they knew, they were good men.

MB: Was that Meagher that went with you?

Cliff: No, no. N.J. Meagher would have had our skin on the fence. He was a bad man, that fellow. It was the Uintah State Bank. They went with us with that, and within three years after '35 things started coming up a little bit and we had a lot of stuff to sell. We cleared our debts pretty fast.

MB: Was a lot of that wool sold domestically, here in the United States, or did any of it go overseas?

Cliff: Oh, none of our wool went out of the United States those years. In the twenties we had thirty-two million sheep in the United States and we only produced about fifty percent of the

wool that was used in the United States. We still had the foreign wools coming in. But since then, the synthetic stuff is really hot with our wool in times. You know, they can sell this synthetic stuff cheaper than they could the wools and the people bought it. They took advantage of everything they could.

MB: Was FDR, Roosevelt, was he good for the sheepman?

Cliff: I can tell you a few things. He was all right for the sheepmen, he was all right for our country in the whole, outside of killing our men off.

MB: What do you mean, World War II?

Cliff: World War II. Now, you can say what you want to, but we heard this on the radio time and again. He was going to make this country the arsenal of the world, and France and England and these other countries was fighting with the Germans at that time. These countries could come here and get it with their own ships. In a little while he was shipping it over to them, and one of our ships was sunk and that's what got us into the mess, you see. Now, if he hadn't've had our ships a-messing around out there, we wouldn't have had our men killed off quite as quick. Anyway, we'd've probably been in it all right, but they'd have had Germany wore down pretty bad before they did, the Russians and the Germans.

MB: Did you support Roosevelt at that time?

Cliff: No, no.

MB: Was he popular here?

Cliff: To the Democrats he was very popular, yes. They started the WPA, or PWA, or whichever they called it, and a Republican couldn't get on it, it was all Democrat. That was all fixed for the Democrats.

MB: Was it fixed even at this level, the county level?

Cliff: Yes, sir. We know of a lot of people that couldn't get work at all, that was the only thing, you bet your life. I had a sister that wanted work and the fellow that was over the, well, he was a Calder boy down here, he asked her which party she was. She said, "It doesn't make any difference what party I am, I could be Republican or Democrat." "Well," he says, "As staunch Republican as your father is, I'd say you was a Republican." And they turned her down.

MB: So she didn't get it.

Cliff: That's right, she didn't get a job. I know several men that tried to get on the works and they couldn't.

MB: That's quite a deal. People told me that they were not able to get on that, but they never told

me why.

Cliff: That's the whole reason for it.

MB: So you didn't like him very much.

Cliff: I liked him in a way. I don't think he was fit for the job in the first place. He was secretary of our Navy in World War I and they said he didn't do anything. He was crippled at that time and couldn't get around.

MB: This is just out of my own curiosity, what president have you liked the most in your lifetime?

Cliff: Looking back at them, everybody said Hoover was the poorest president, the people in general, mostly Democrats, but Hoover was a good man. The only thing that was wrong with Hoover was, like several other men, they had Democrat Senate and House and he couldn't do anything. They had him hamstringed, you might say. He wanted to; everything was in bad shape in his times. We was a-borrowing money; we couldn't make the ends meet; and over a few years, you know, it puts you behind quite a ways. But he wanted to refinance all businesses. It didn't make any difference how bad shape they were in, he wanted to refinance the businesses with 3.5% interest. It would have made work for a lot of people, because at that time, we had to quit building, anything, fixing up our outfit in any way because we didn't have the money. That would have loosened things up to where at 3.5% we could have had thirty years to pay it back. The House and Senate wouldn't do that.

MB: You know who was Speaker of the House at that time?

Cliff: Yeah, yeah. (laughs)

MB: That's funny.

Cliff: But you're right. They're doing the same thing today. Carter, he's giving us a bad time here in the West on account of the western people not voting for him.

MB: You mean with the CUP, is that what you're talking about? Central Utah Project, the water?

Cliff: Yeah, the water business. There's no reason on earth why we couldn't have had some of that money. He's sending more money overseas to the foreign people. There's another thing that I think that should have been chopped off a long time ago. If these people can't help themselves, why, to hell with them, don't help them. I think they ought to help themselves someway or another.

MB: That's what Kennedy wanted, with the Peace Corp.

Cliff: Yes, that's right.

End